



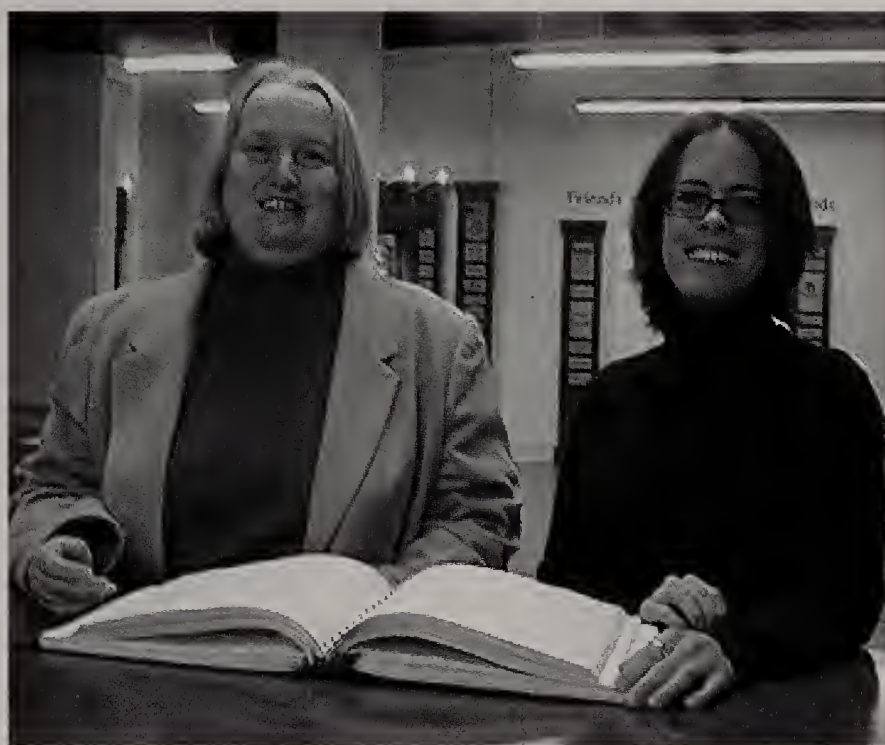
IN TOUCH

November/December 2006

The National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) opens for business at APH on Monday, December 4, 2006

Nancy Lacewell, Public Affairs

As everyone working in the field of vision knows, blind and visually impaired students sometimes do not receive the textbooks they need for school at the same time as their classmates. If children who are blind or visually impaired are to have the same opportunities to learn and excel as their sighted peers, it is imperative that they have all the educational



Julia Myers (l), Director of Resource Services, and **Nicole Gaines**, NIMAC Manager, work to open the National Instructional Materials Access Center at APH.

materials they need, when they need them.

The process of transforming a print textbook into braille is complicated and can take a long time. Before actual transcription can begin, many critical decisions must be made about the material, based on the unique learning style of blind students. Braille must be formatted in a precise way that is easy to understand, and effective methods of conveying

information in photos, charts, and graphs must be determined.

Text is then transcribed into braille by professional, highly qualified transcribers following strict formatting rules. Professionals trained and experienced in producing tactile graphics design and create illustrations that convey the same information through touch that sighted students receive through vision. All work is then carefully proofread, corrections are made, braille is embossed, and tactile graphics are thermoformed. Finally text and graphics are put together in the correct order and bound.

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NIMAC (Continued from Page 1)

Collaborative effort means positive change

In addition to the complicated processes of turning print material into braille and large print, there are other obstacles that make it difficult to deliver accessible textbooks to blind and visually impaired students in time for classroom use

Teachers and school administrators sometimes do not allow enough time when ordering books for students. There are several reasons why this happens. Textbooks are sometimes not selected until close to the beginning of the school year. Blind

and visually impaired students might move from one school to another without advance notice. Often, orders are placed late because teachers and administrators simply don't understand how much time and labor is involved in the translation process.

One significant delay in the process of getting braille and large print textbooks to students on time has been difficulty getting usable electronic files from textbook publishers. There has been no consistent file format that can be easily translated. When no file has been available, books have been scanned – once again adding time to translation.

Thanks to the Federal government – and to a lot of people working in the fields of vision and textbook publishing over many years – this major obstacle to producing textbooks in alternative media is being eliminated.

A standard file format has been established that all

textbook publishers must use. It is called NIMAS (National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard).

These NIMAS files will be created by publishers for each textbook as it is being produced. In the past, once alternative media producers (like APH) received an order for a specific textbook they had to ask publishers to create a usable electronic file. It was nearly impossible to predict what type of file would be received, and when (or even if) a file would be available.



Fourth floor east – future home of the NIMAC.

APH and the textbook repository

NIMAS textbook files will now be sent to a central repository, which is being housed at APH. The NIMAC (National Instructional Materials Access Center) officially opens at APH on December 4, as designated by Federal legislation that was passed in 2004. As with the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind passed in 1878, Congress has once again entrusted APH with a major, national role in providing educational materials to blind and visually impaired students.

The NIMAC is not a physical “place,” but a virtual “box” in which files will be stored. There will be no ribbon-cutting or parade at APH on December 4th, and work will continue as usual. Quiet though it may be, the NIMAC opening for business represents a significant event in the history of providing accessible educational materials to blind and visually impaired students.

Working under the direction of **Tuck Tinsley**, President, and **Bob Brasher**, Vice President of

NIMAC (Continued from Page 2)

Advisory Services and Research, **Julia Myers**, Director of Resource Services, has done much of the “leg work” over the past two years to gather input and work with OverDrive, Inc. (an eCommerce, digital publishing and digital media company) to create the NIMAC.

Said Myers, “The path to making the NIMAC a reality has been a challenging one, but made much easier by the support and cooperation of APH staff from many divisions and departments. I continue to be grateful for that support.”

APH Resource Services Department staff member, **Nicole Gaines**, formerly a systems librarian, has recently been selected as NIMAC Manager, and will develop and oversee day-to-day operations of the repository. The east end of the 4th floor (where ATIC used to operate) is being redesigned and will house Gaines and other NIMAC staff and equipment in the coming weeks.

Gaines is currently in the process of hiring two additional staff members who will perform such duties as checking incoming publisher files for accuracy, cataloging files, and providing technical support and customer service. As the repository evolves and grows in the coming months there may be a couple more staff members hired, according to Gaines.

A giant step forward

“The coming year will hold big challenges for everyone involved with the NIMAC,” said Gaines. “Everyone will be learning along the way – publishers, NIMAC staff, state agencies, and alternative media producers.”


The role that APH and the NIMAC will play in getting textbooks to students in alternative media quicker and easier than ever before is very clearly defined, according to Gaines. “There are a lot of

factors in the entire process that are connected to our part,” said Gaines. “APH will help facilitate the smooth operation of the entire process.”

“Tactile graphics production will still require much time and labor – both in decision-making and production – at least until technology advances in this area to speed up the process,” said Gaines.

Gaines and Myers are optimistic about the future of the NIMAC and its impact on students. Gaines said, “The technology that has been developed for NIMAC is excellent, and I’m confident that the system can and will flow smoothly.”

“The NIMAC is a critical link in a chain of positive changes that will expedite the delivery of accessible textbooks in a timely manner,” said Gaines. “The combination of the standardized file format produced as part of ‘business as usual’ for publishers rather than only upon request, the quality design and efficient operation of the NIMAC, and the patience and cooperation of state agencies requesting files, all translates to a huge leap forward for kids who need materials.”

“We are clearly getting closer to the day when all blind and visually impaired students will have the books they need, in the appropriate learning medium, at the same time as their classmates,” said Tinsley. “We at APH should all be proud of the part we are playing in improving educational opportunities for the students we serve.” 



Featured Employee: Arthur Vaughn



Becky Snider, Public Affairs

Fellow Human Resource Department employees didn't hesitate when asked to describe **Arthur Vaughn**. "A diplomat with integrity and a keen sense of humor," is what came to mind for **Angie Schulte**. **Darrell Buford** noted, "Arthur has the ability to make the best of any situation."

On the heels of his mother, **Clara Thompson**, who worked in the record press area (1972-1981), Arthur joined the APH Shipping Department in 1978. Strongly influenced by **Ted Herps**, a machinist at APH (1952-1993), Arthur has been continually working to improve things at APH since arriving. **Rhonda Schaefer** (Shipping and Receiving) confirms, saying about the years she worked directly with him, "Arthur always gave his 110% whether it was union business or the everyday tasks of loading and unloading trucks. Arthur is one of the reasons for APH being what it is today. He is an unsung hero."

More recently, after 5 years as Chief Quality Officer, Arthur says the best part of his job is working with people – especially when an employee has a Continuous Improvement idea that he/she captures, fosters, and turns into a reality. No doubt Arthur's methodical approach to problem-solving is key to the success of the program. Perhaps his former chess team training helped develop this skill. Are you one who remembers challenging Arthur to a friendly game at lunch out on the shipping dock?

Arthur is an outdoorsman, admitting that he spends as much time as possible in the woods or on the water. When he's not tent camping, bow hunting, or fishing, he's often putting miles on his motorcycle - sometimes with 7-year-old grandson **Cameron Scott Paul**. They enjoyed camping under the stars together for the first time this year.



Always safety conscious, **Arthur Vaughn** (r) and his grandson **Cameron** have helmets at the ready for motorcycle riding.

Arthur met his equally modest wife of 24 years – **Brenda Vaughn** (Repairs) – here at APH, and they live in the house next to where Arthur was raised in Pleasure Ridge, with daughter **Angela Marie Paul** nearby. In fact, good ol' dependable Arthur is still mowing the same neighbor's lawn he used to keep trimmed as a youngster.

When asked about Arthur's work at APH, President **Tuck Tinsley** said, "Arthur is really a good person. He is honest, ethical, and compassionate. He truly cares about the welfare of APH employees, and works on every project he can that will benefit the employees. Arthur's work benefits APH in so many ways. We are truly fortunate to having him working with us." **APH**

Congratulations to staff who guessed the featured employee was Arthur Vaughn: **Marguerite Allen** (CTS), **Artina Paris-Jones** (Field Services), **Eric Peden** and **Steve Paris** (Production), and **Marilyn Cheatham** (retired from Human Resources).

Customer (and Visitor) Comments


Rosanne Broome, *Customer Relations*

From an APH customer in Milwaukee...

I want you to know that if I were ever to erect a wall of heroes in my house... APH's name would be pretty close to the top in big, bold, neon braille. I seriously love you people. Thank you!



From a teacher in Kentucky...

WOW! Our children (and moms) had a great time on our tour of the plant on Friday, October 27. We were amazed – and we learned so much! The children want to go back to the museum. Some of the boys asked for braille writing tools. Thank you (**Becky Snider**) for working with me to make this tour possible. 

NEXT ISSUE APH Featured Employee

Who is this? Some “helpful” clues...

- She graduated from high school two separate times.
- She lived in 19 different residences in only nine years.
- She worked as a radio station co-host throughout her college career.
- She's been with APH long enough to get a coffee mug, but not long enough to have received a gold pin.
- She graduated from college in four years with a 3.99 GPA.





Be first to call us if you know who this is. Becky – ext. 356, or Nancy – ext. 339.



BULLETIN BOARD

Welcome new employees!

Sarah Veal (Talking Book Studio) and **Linda**

Knight (Braille). *We're glad you joined APH!*

Congratulations, **Ron Gadson!**

The Rev. Ronald Gadson, Sr. – our very own Ron Gadson (Maintenance) was featured in a Courier-Journal article on October 14. Ron is pastor of the Mount Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in October. Events surrounding the celebration included a “Pioneer’s Banquet,” honoring descendants of the church’s founding members, and food collections for Kentucky Harvest. *We’re proud of you and your fellow church members, Ron. There is no doubt that your church members respect you and depend on you as much as we do here at APH!*



Jean and **Phil Moore’s** son **Christopher** (22), who is a freelance artist in his spare time, drew caricatures to raise money at a recent festival at the Heartsong Church.

APH 2006 Service Awards

The American Printing House for the Blind gratefully acknowledges the many years of service of the employees listed here. Each has reached a significant milestone of service in 2006, and we thank them for their commitment and many accomplishments. *Congratulations!*

35 YEARS

Martha Coogle
Maxine Floden
Jo Ann Hardesty
Rita Mudd
Deb O’Connell
Jackie Oliver
Pat Packer
Bob Steffen
Debbie Timmel

30 YEARS

Bettie J. Cox
Loretta Devore
Perry Garner
Kathy Peak

25 YEARS

Cary Crumpton
Jack Decker
Wilma Druin
Debra Harrison
Ricky Jones
Dolores Robinson
Helen Saltz
Dwight Williams

20 YEARS

Scott Blome
Steve Mullins
Carol Shanks
Lou Tingle

15 YEARS

Connie Eaves
Joyce Frank
Joan Goodgine
Denise Meredith
Jean Moore
Margaret Nix

10 YEARS

Daniela Brooks
Devon Hershey
Alan Lovell
Artina Paris-Jones

5 YEARS


Vurah Berry
Terea Bethel
Janie Blome
Monica Coffey
Tonya Conn
Teresa Davis
Nancy Glur
Deborah Hacker
Kathy Lewis
Becki Moody
Tristan Pierce
Anne Rich
Angie Schulte
Terrie Terlau
Malcolm Turner

Museum mask-making workshop a huge success



Museum Director **Mike Hudson** welcomed guests to APH in October for a mask-making workshop.

held. In the morning, 19 people attended, and in the afternoon 21 participated!

Most kids who attended the workshop were between the ages of 5 and 7, and many were scouts. Parents stood back and watched at first, but when encouraged to make their own masks they enthusiastically joined in the fun. Mike and Roberta have already begun to plan next fall's mask-making workshop – which they promise will be even bigger and better! 

Thanks to a lot of hard work by **Mike Hudson** and **Roberta Williams** (both in Public Affairs), the mask-making workshop held in the museum on Saturday, October 21 was well-attended and lots of fun.

Although they had only planned to hold one workshop, so many people registered that there were two sessions



Sharon, Sierra, and Mario Eiland enjoyed making masks together at the APH workshop in October. **Mike Hudson**, museum director, said they made some awesome masks!

NEWS BULLETIN: Two APH Employees Lost

By an Anonymous WWW Member

On Wednesday August 30, twenty-six determined individuals sat in an APH conference room at lunch and began to learn about WWW. No, we are not talking about the internet, but about the Weight Watchers at Work program.

This is a 12 week program that teaches proper eating habits through a system that assigns point values to foods based on their caloric, fat, and fiber content. APH made the program available to employees at work during their lunch hour. Employees pay



Tony Grantz (Business Development) (l-r), **Ralph Bartley** and **David McGee** (Research) enjoyed some healthy food at an employee luncheon to kick off the APH Wellness Program.

\$12.00 per week for 12 weeks. The money can be deducted from their paychecks. It is a commitment of \$144.00 that you pay even if you drop out of the program. So far, everyone has stayed in.

At the start of the program and each Wednesday thereafter, members are weighed (in private) by **Anne Offutt**, APH's group leader from Weight Watchers. At the first weigh-in members were given a target weight loss goal of 10% of current weight, and they were assigned a recommended number of food points to consume each day based on their current weight.

Halloween Ghouls and Goblins



Photo gallery compiled by **Artina Paris-Jones** (Field Services). Pictures are of children, grandchildren, and a pet of APH employees.



Raina Coffey (2) (l-r), Snow White and daughter of **Monica Coffey** (Research), enjoyed Halloween with **Rosie Turner** (3) and **Ellie Turner** (4), both Princess Belle and daughters of **Malcolm Turner** (Communications).



Mike McDonald (Research) took his son **Neal** (7 months) trick-or-treating as a very scary skeleton!



Cameron Scott Paul (7) grandson of **Brenda Vaughn** (Repairs) and **Arthur Vaughn** (Human Resources) scared everyone on Halloween in his vampire costume.



Aiden Graham (2, son of **Chris Graham** (Contract Administration) dressed as Batman.



Ashley Graham (8) daughter of **Chris Graham** (Contract Administration) wore a Supergirl costume for Halloween.

Halloween Ghouls and Goblins



Ariel the Little Mermaid is really **Gabriele Fulks** (8), granddaughter of **Phyllis Williams** (Cost/Inventory).



Drew Fulks (3) dressed as Captain Hook. Drew is the grandson of **Phyllis Williams** (Cost/Inventory).



Jordan Zinious (2) dressed as Tigger for Halloween. Jordan is the son of **Rose Zinious** (ATIC) and **Ted Zinious** (Maintenance).



Kaden Paris (9 months), dressed as Baby Batman, and **Daniel Paris** (2 and a half) dressed as Robin enjoyed Halloween treats at the Louisville Zoo. Both are grandsons of **Artina Paris-Jones** (Field Services).



Halloween Ghouls and Goblins



This scary vampire is **Destinee Riddle** (8), granddaughter of **Debbie Allgood** (Housekeeping).



Jalen Riddle (4), dressed as a pirate, is the grandson of **Debbie Allgood** (Housekeeping).



Andrew Shumate (almost 3) dressed as Thomas the Tank Engine for Halloween. Andrew is the grandson of **Jean Moore** (ATIC) and **Phil Moore** (Plant Administration).



Kinsey Sims (8)(l-r), dressed as Major Flirt, and **Sierra Sims** (9) was a gothic princess for Halloween. Both are granddaughters of **Rodger Smith** (Research).



Sugarfoot (17) cocker spaniel of **Brown Carr** (CTS) wore a bumble bee costume on Halloween.

NEWS BULLETIN: Two APH Employees Lost (Continued from Page 7)

Members quickly learn that the “fun” foods that are loaded with fat and sugar have a much higher point value than foods that are healthier. You can still eat anything you want but you quickly learn that cheeseburgers cost a lot more of your daily allowed points than salads, vegetables, and other healthy foods.

Moderation is one key to the program. Points are assigned to foods based on their portion sizes as well so you cannot look up “pasta” without remembering that 4 points is for 1 cup of pasta. No fair counting 3 cups of pasta as 4 points (it is 12). Foods that are not listed in the book provided by Weight Watchers can have their point value calculated quickly by using a slide rule device (also provided by Weight Watchers) and reading the nutritional information on the package. It is not as complicated as it sounds, and soon becomes almost second nature as you look over food choices.

Members of the program learn about eating better, exercising, and dealing mentally with different eating situations. Everyone shares recipes and stories about situations they have been in and how they made (or didn’t make) the best choices of foods at the time. One of the hallmarks of the program is confidentiality. Group discussions stay within the


group. Kind of like “what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.”

Just how effective is the program? In the first week the group lost 73.6 pounds. By the sixth weigh-in the group had lost a total of 242 pounds. It is very likely that by the time you read this the group will have lost 300 pounds or more. That is the equivalent of “losing” 2 APH employees!

Offutt anticipates that by the end of the program in December the group could lose as much as 500 pounds or more if current rates of weight loss continue. Many members report having more energy, fewer aches and pains in joints, moving belts in 1, 2, even 3 notches, and better fitting clothes. One participant has lowered her blood pressure from 132/83 to 113/68 in just 4 weeks with no medication.

So the next time you notice a fellow employee taking a little more time to look over the lunch choices in the cafeteria or looking a little different than you remember them looking just a few weeks before, the reason could be WWW.

*Congratulations to this health-conscious group of APH employees! Keep up the great work! **APH***



Gary Mudd, APH Vice President of Public Affairs, recently presented **Rep. Nita Lowey** (D-NY) with a print/braille copy of the book, *Capital! Washington, DC from A to Z*, and a wooden bookstand with a personalized plaque on it. Congresswoman Lowey is a member of the House of Representatives Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHSE) Appropriations Subcommittee, and a staunch supporter of APH and educational opportunities for students who are blind or visually impaired.

BIRTHDAYS!

November

2 Bettye Barnes
2 Jerry Pardue
2 Maxine Floden
3 Darrell Buford
6 Tiva Frank
11 Monica Thurston
14 Leo Logsdon
14 Joanie O'Brien
15 Sheila Lambert
15 Carol Roderick
16 Jack Fox
16 Margie White
18 Artina Paris-Jones
19 BJ Reece
22 Gayle Pryor
24 Lou Tingle
27 Joon Lee

27 Rosanne Hoffmann
27 Fred Otto
28 Elaine Kitchel
30 Rodger Smith

December

1 Mary Crawford
2 Chris Graham
4 Eleanor Pester
6 Malcolm Turner
8 Beth Phillip
11 Robert Conaghan
13 Sharon Harrah
13 Dottie Parks
15 Will Evans
16 John Hedges
17 Mike Hudson
17 Michelle Alexander

18 Madelyn Buzzard
Mees
19 Steve Mullins
19 Suzanne Murphy
19 Laura Myers
21 Bob Brasher
21 Fred Gissoni
21 Mary Nelle McLennan
24 Daniela Brooks
25 Eva Brewer
26 Rodney Noble
29 Chris Garr
31 Mary Robinson

January

2 Alec Volz
5 Sandy Raley
7 Phil Moore

8 Brown Carr
9 Jo Ann Hardesty
9 Rhonda Carlton
11 Denise Merideth
12 Nancy Etter
14 Sarah Veal
15 Bobbia Mackey
18 David Hines
19 Rose Zinious
20 Rodger Miller
20 Phyllis Williams
25 Kwain Tarrence
29 Ron Overstreet
30 Tristan Pierce
30 Jackie Oliver
30 Anna Fox

UPCOMING EVENTS

2006

December 22 (Friday) – APH Holiday Luncheon at Kentucky School for the Blind. Time to be announced (TBA).

2007

Callahan Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind recognition of National Braille Literacy Month (January)

January 4 (Saturday) – 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Louis Braille's birthday celebration. Come have cake, learn

how braille is made, discover the life of Louis Braille.

January 20 (Saturday) – 11:00 a.m. Carla Ruschival will read from the braille version of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, by J.K. Rowling.

February 17 (Saturday) – Time TBA The Big Read (a National Endowment for the Arts program). APH joins with the Louisville Free Public Library to sponsor a reading discussion group on an accessible version of the novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zora Neale Thurston.



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